

Our Purpose

To examine Arizona Special Education State Board 401 rules, to propose rules that are clear, instructive, and aligned to the IDEA, and to provide guidance for implementation.

Core Team

Kristina Blackledge
Advocate & SEAP Member

Angela Denning
Arizona Department of Education
Deputy Associate Superintendent

Craig Carter
Director of Special Services
Washington Elem School District

Mollie Casson
ESS Director, Kingman Unified

Jan Cawthorne
Executive Director of Special Education, Mesa Public Schools

Wendy Collison
Director of Special Education
Glendale Union High School District

Elizabeth Conran, Chief Academic Officer, The Menta Group

Sarah Gamble
Director of Special Education
Primavera Online High School

Kristen Hartsuff
Director of Special Education
Glendale Elementary School District

Lorrane McPherson
Treasurer, AZCEC

Kimberly Peaslee,
Parent & Chairperson of CAC & SEAP Member

Heidi Sinkovic
Director of ESS, The Leona Group
Chris Tiffany, Raising Special Kids & SEAP Member

Our Group Norms

- We engage in active listening
- We seek to understand
- We strive for a collective impact
- We honor the communication plan
- We support working for the greater good
- Our communication is timely and accurate
- We use rubrics to evaluate our work
- We need to learn and "unlearn"
- Reflection is critical to our success

Consensus--A two tiered approach:

The Core Team will work toward unanimous consensus on every issue. If not an unanimous consensus the group will use a supermajority vote (11/13).

Rule Committee – Core Team

June 9, 2014 Communiqué

Give Feedback AZBoardRuleCommitteeInBox@azed.gov

Core Team Attendees: Heidi Sinkovic, Sarah Gamble, Wendy Collison, Beth Conran, Kim Peaslee, Craig Carter, Mollie Casson, Christopher Tiffany, Lorrane McPherson, Jan Cawthorne

ADE Support Staff: Angela Denning, Lisa Aaroe, Cindy Bolewski, Maura Mall, Jinju Park, Maria Durazo

Meeting Location: ADE on Osborn

You've got to think about big things while you're doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction.

GOAL for Today: Finalize presentation and information gathering session with the Key Advisors. Wrap up work on Initial Evaluation.

What we did.

- Phone call with John Copenhaver, Director for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) who has been providing ongoing support to ADE/ESS, establishing the connection for additional technical support as needed.
- We reviewed and finalized the PowerPoint presentation concepts prepared for the Key Advisors meeting at 10:00.
 - Met with Key Advisors reviewing the work of the Core Team to date. The advisors suggested using the term "school days" rather than "business days"; adding "....the PEA may at any time..." to #6 of the proposed Child Find changes.
 - Suggestions were received for adding examples to the Guidance Document.
 - Core Team was asked to consider specific language to clarify at which point in the process the parents provides or refuses initial consent for services.
 - The group engaged in extensive discussion of whether to include sending draft evaluations or IEPs to parents prior to initial meetings and asked the Core Team to thoughtfully consider the different perspectives and needs in developing rule recommendations.
 - Discussed recommendations from the group for additional Key Advisors & Participants and the Core Team's process of inviting speakers for different topics and will be bringing in evaluators in all related fields for input.
- Based on the input above, we revised the draft Child Find rules document to reflect the parent or guardian will be notified in writing which was sent to the AG's office for review. Discussion will continue on using the terms "business" or "school" days in the language based on research and consistency with IDEA.
- We agreed to send notification to the psychologist professional group, ASDB/Coops, and the groups of speech therapists and OT/PT working on the AZTAS documents to provide input to the evaluation section when a draft of the evaluation section is available.
- We discussed the feedback from the field via the ESS Inbox.

What we learned.

- We learned that the process of bringing in the Key Advisors and Participants provided important feedback and information to consider.

What we accomplished.

- We amended our work on the Child Find section and sent it to the AG's office for review.
- We determined the scope of and plan for work for our meetings on June 23 & 24.
- We set the agenda for the next meeting, June 23, 2014.
- The following meeting date of July 18, 2014 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm was set to begin work on the IEP section.
- Future meeting times will be 8:00-2:00 pm and the dates are August 18 and September 12, October 3, October 20, November 14, Tuesday December 2 and December 15.

Notes:

Rule Making Core Committee June 9, 2014 Communiqué

Next Steps:

We set the agenda for our next meeting on June 23 & 24 from 9:00 am -3:00 pm.

- Determine language for use of “business day”, “school day”, time lines from IDEA, “if appropriate” using information from IDEA, TX, PA, ID, and CA.
- We need to have the following information available at the next meeting: OSEP document on FBAs, RSK parent concerns re: Evaluation, and engage Dispute Resolution in the discussion surrounding evaluation.
- Complete a draft of Initial Evaluation, Reevaluation and Parental consent for each labeled section that includes parental consent, timelines, and procedures.
- To prepare for the next meeting we will read Chapter 5 and part of Chapter 6 of the IDEA (LRP publication), read the current AZTAS document on evaluation as a review of current practice based on current rule, read the admin rule cross walk sections, memo to 2007 John Copenhaver
- Review Feedback/Anecdotes from the Field.

We Want to Hear from You!

Please send your comments to AZBoardRuleCommitteeInBox@azed.gov . We look forward to hearing from the community at large, Key Advisors and Extended Partners on our work to date and future agenda items. These documents along with key documents are posted on the Director’s Corner at: <http://www.azed.gov/special-education/category/directors-corner/>.

Notes: